



# US Army Wide Tele-TBI Projects

**Francis L. McVeigh, OD, FAAO, MS, MS  
tele-TBI Program Manager**

**Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center (TATRC)  
USA Medical Research and Materiel Command (MRMC)**



# Why Do we Need to Address TBI?

- Signature Injury (59% of WRAMC OIF/OEF pts)
- Civilian population 1.4 M suffer a TBI per year
- Paucity of sound clinical research evidence
- Lasting quality of life effects



# Why Do we Need to Address TBI?

- Hard to diagnose
- How do you assess, diagnose, treat and rehab
- Etiologies not fully understood
- Need to know-Is the Soldier fit to return to the fight?
- Resilience—how can we protect ahead of time



# This is Why we are Involved!





## US Army Wide Tele-TBI Projects 'Background'

- Request for proposals-mid 2007
- TATRC Proposals submitted Sep 07
- Proposals approved Feb 08
- COAs recommended & approved Mar 08



## US Army Wide Tele-TBI Projects 'Three Separate Initiatives'

- RMCs Tele-TBI Infrastructure (personnel + equip)
- mCare Cell Phone Project
- AMEDD Transcranial Doppler Program



## US Army Wide Tele-TBI Projects 'RMCs Tele-TBI Infrastructure'

- PHASE I: Mar 08-Present
  - Coordinated with OTSG's HP&S, PTBI, PR&R and DCOE
  - Coordinated with each RMCs' POCs determining requirements
  - Coordinated w/ USAMITC to ascertain network needs and equipment compatibility



## US Army Wide Tele-TBI Projects 'RMCs Tele-TBI Infrastructure'

- PHASE I continued:
  - Contracted for RMC management teams
    - (Program Manager, Clinical and Technical Advisor-13 personnel)
  - Deployed management teams and equip
    - One mngt team per RMC and equip at > 60 sites
  - Provided ongoing assistance and guidance w/  
RMCs on building their tele-TBI programs





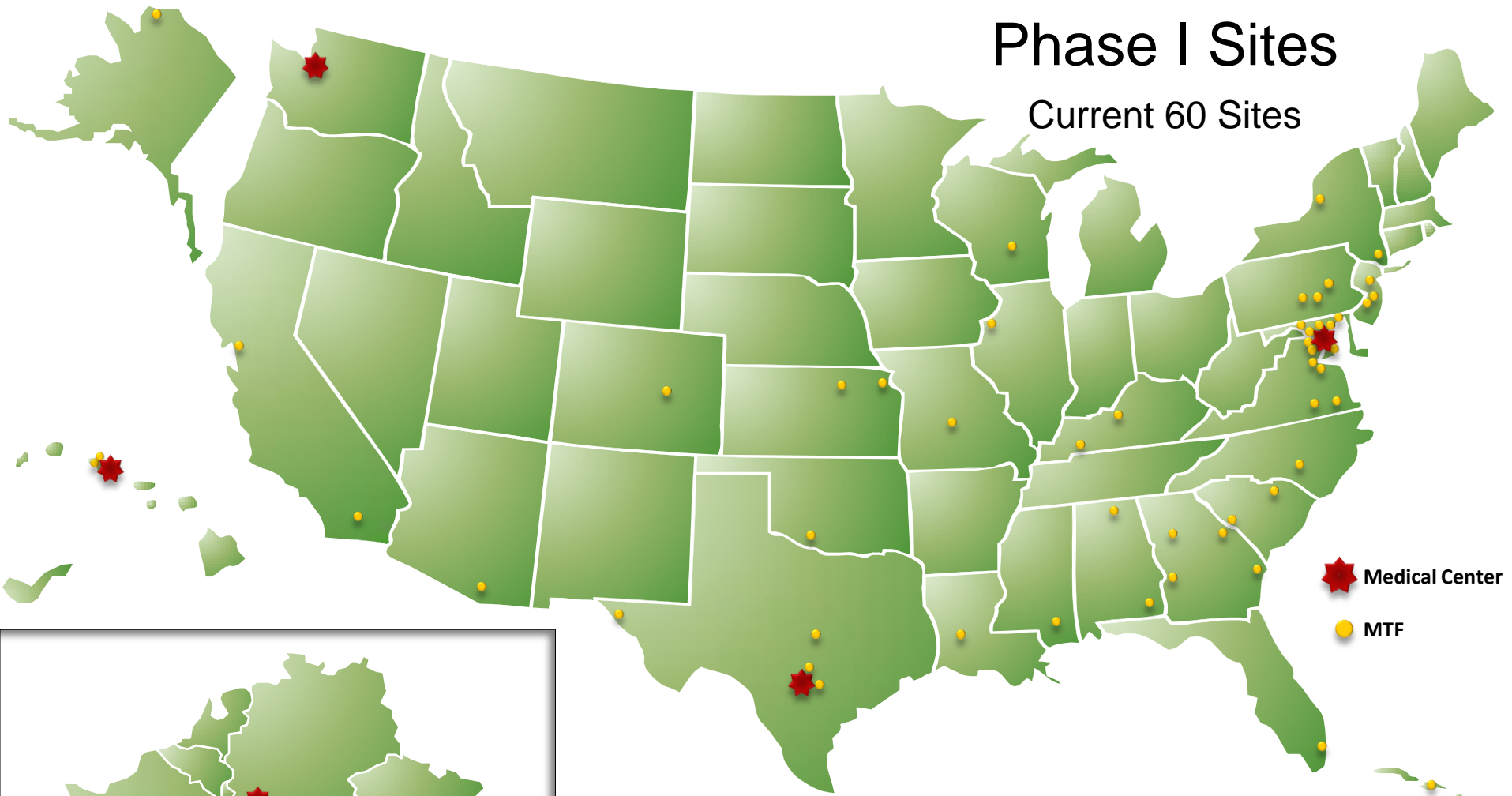
## US Army Wide Tele-TBI Projects 'RMCs Tele-TBI Infrastructure'

- PHASE II:(broader tele-health) June 09-Present
  - Submitted contract for additional MTF personnel
    - (technical, clinical and administrative-63 personnel)
  - Will deploy equipment to 78 sites by 2009 end
  - Provided suggestions on how some recent Suicide Prevention Task Force concerns might be addressed by leveraging the tele-tbi infrastructure
  - Co-sponsoring w/ ATA Conference on tele-TBI clinical applications that could be used today



# Phase I Sites

Current 60 Sites



★ Medical Center  
● MTF



**NRMC – 26 (all used)**

**SERMC – 13 (3 used)**

**GPRMC – 12 (11 used)**

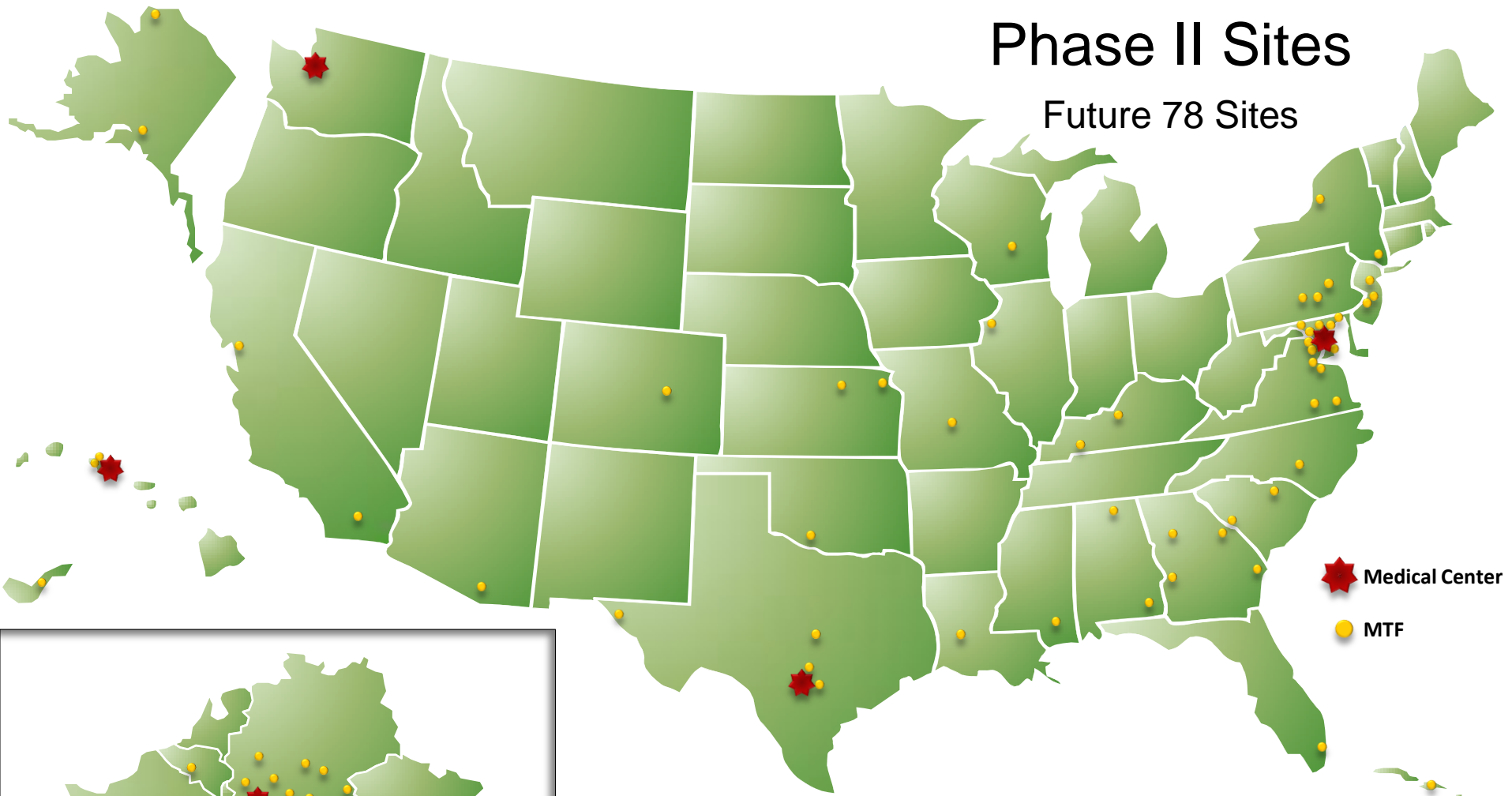
**WRMC – 4 (2 used)**

**PRMC – 3 (0 used)**

**ERMC – 2 (0 used)**

# Phase II Sites

Future 78 Sites



Medical Center  
MTF



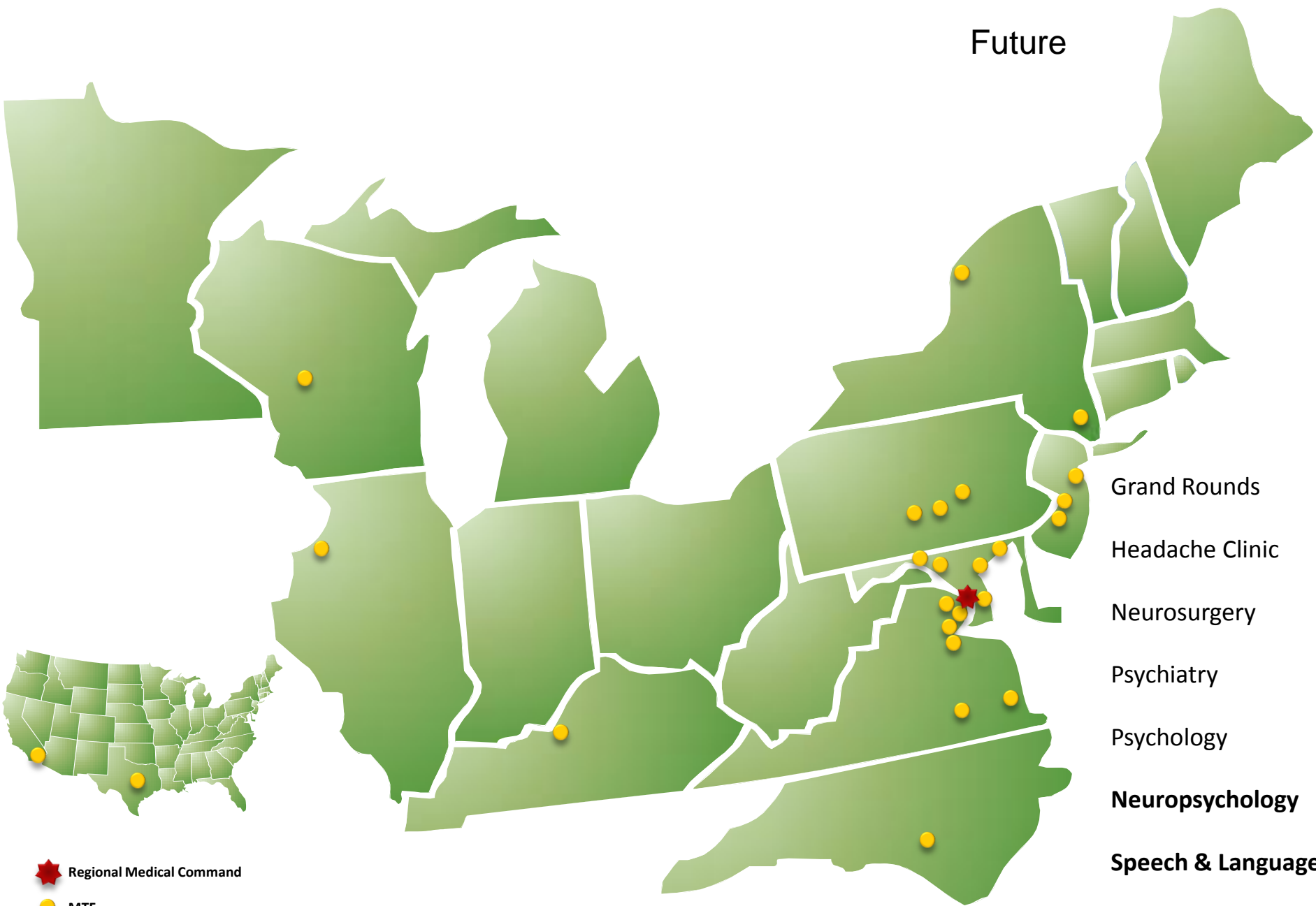
NRMC – 28 (all projected)  
SERMC 14 (all projected)  
GPRMC – 12 (all projected)  
WRMC – 5 (all projected)  
PRMC – 4 (all projected)  
ERMC – 15 (all projected)

## Current



# NRMC

Future



Grand Rounds

Headache Clinic

Neurosurgery

Psychiatry

Psychology

Neuropsychology

Speech & Language

 Regional Medical Command

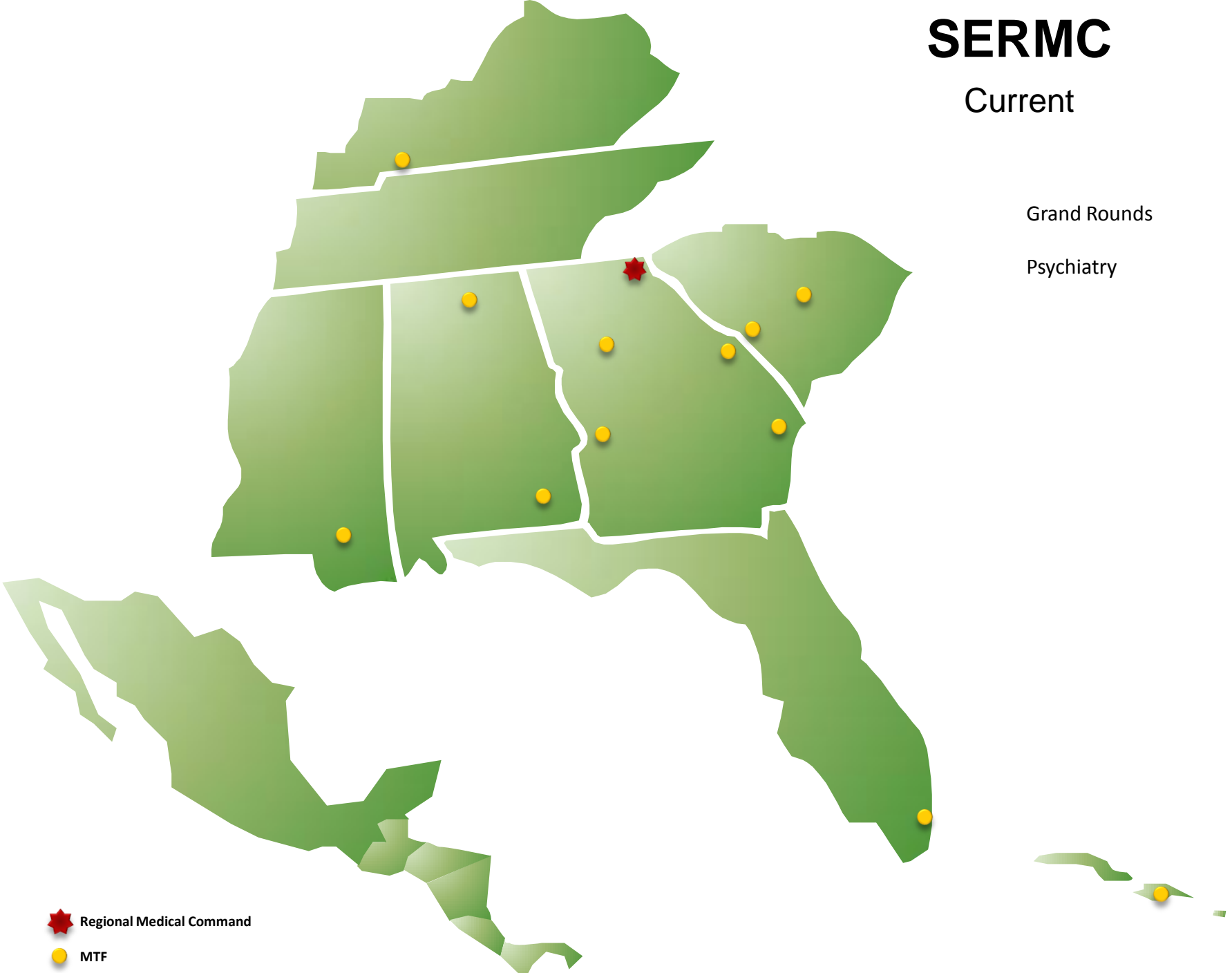
 MTF

# SERMC

Current

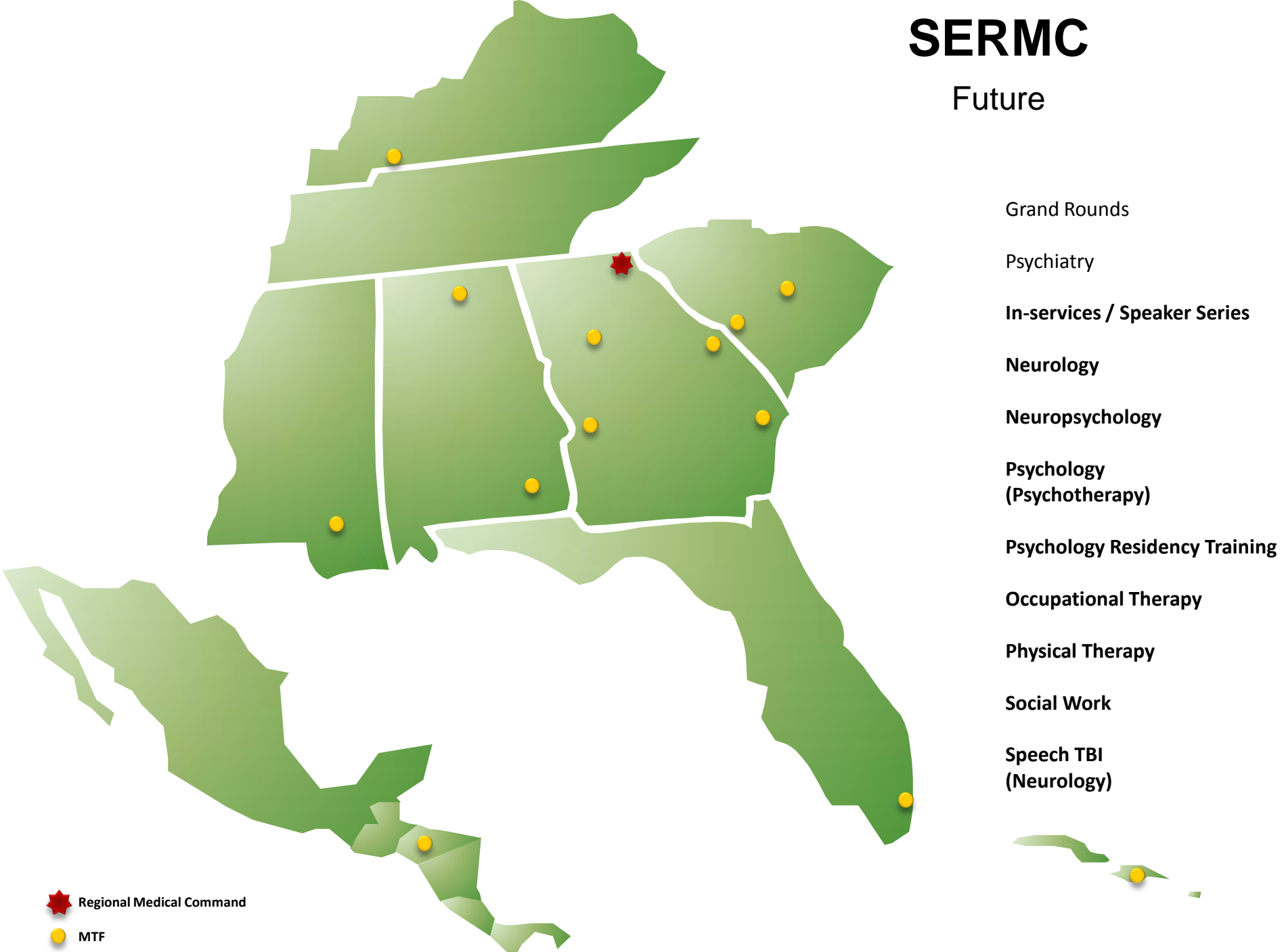
Grand Rounds

Psychiatry



# SERMC

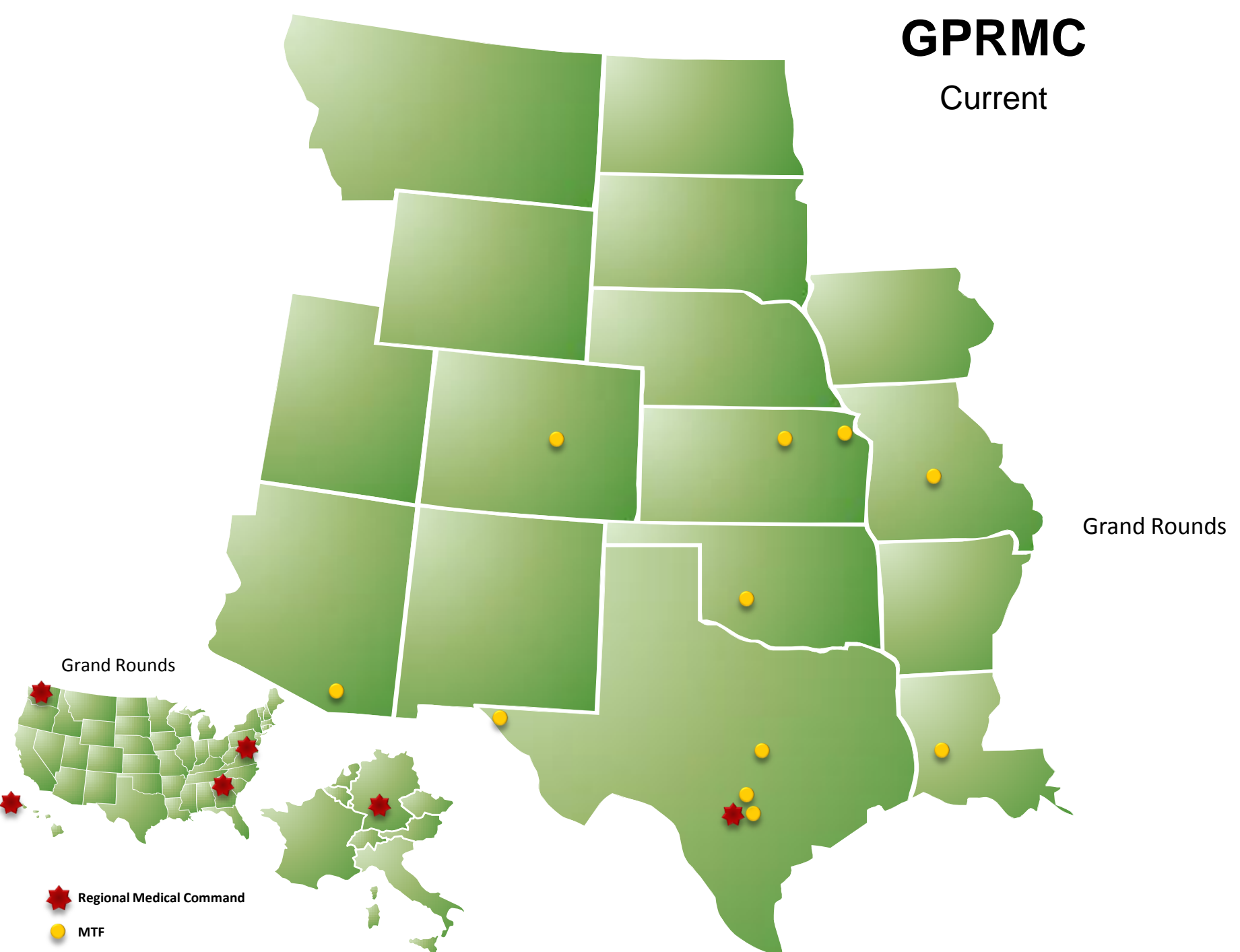
Future





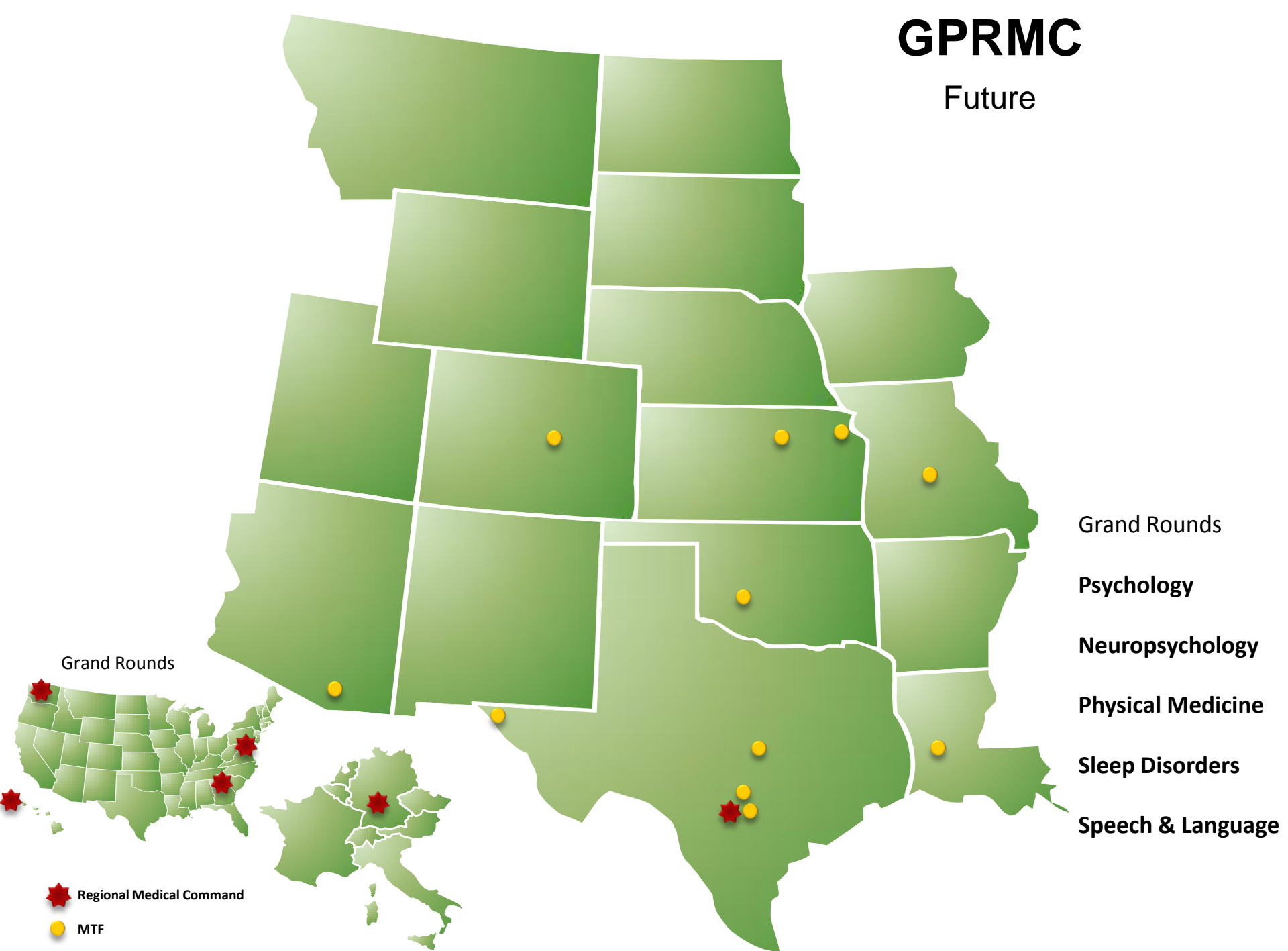
# GPRMC

Current



# GPRMC

Future



# WRMC

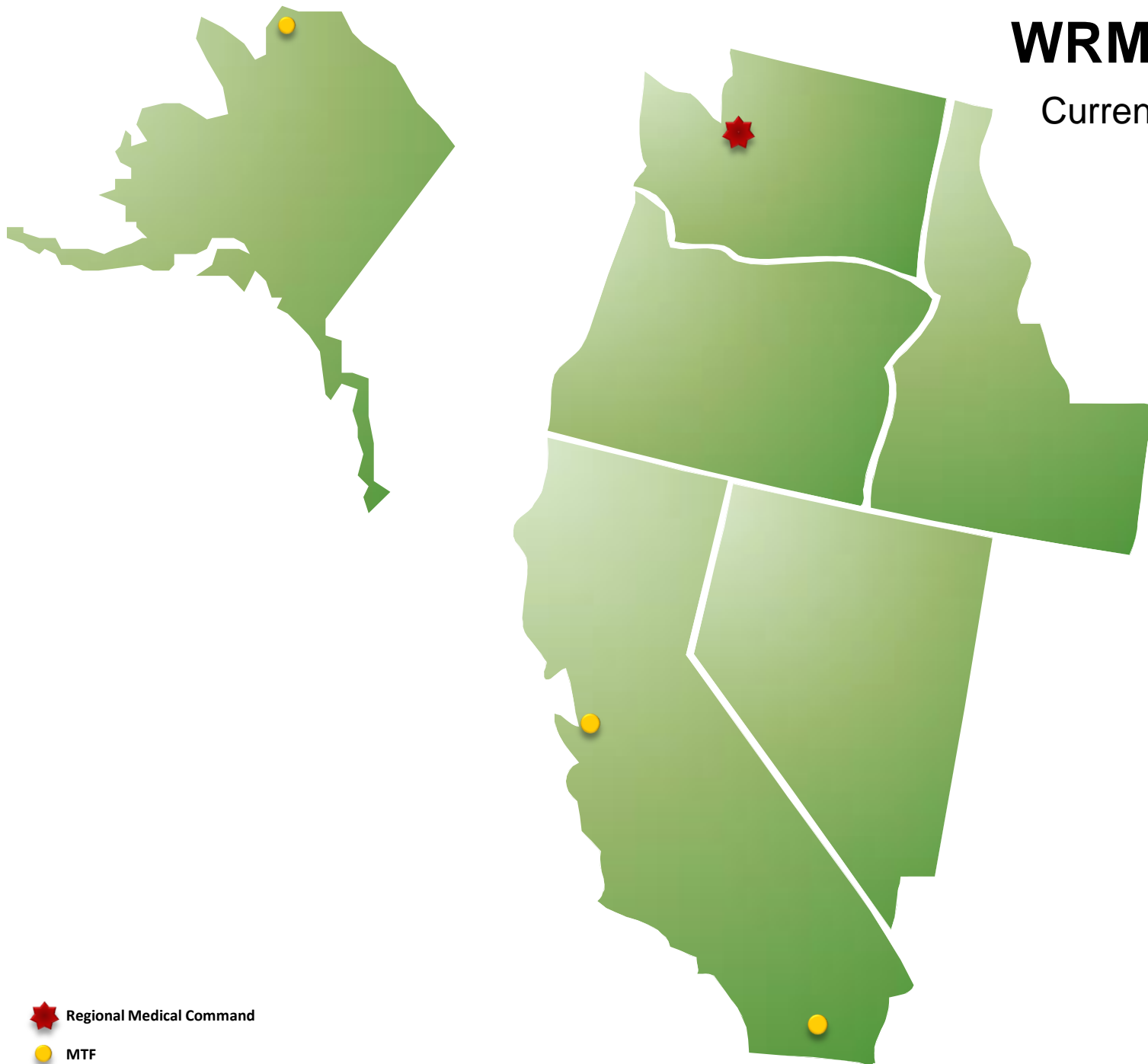
Current

Grand Rounds

Primary Care

 Regional Medical Command

 MTF



# WRMC

Future



Grand Rounds

Primary Care

**Behavioral Health**

**Behavioral  
Neurology**

**Clinical Psychology**

**Neurology**

**Neuropsychology**

**Neuropsychometry**

**Occupational  
Therapy**

 Regional Medical Command

 MTF

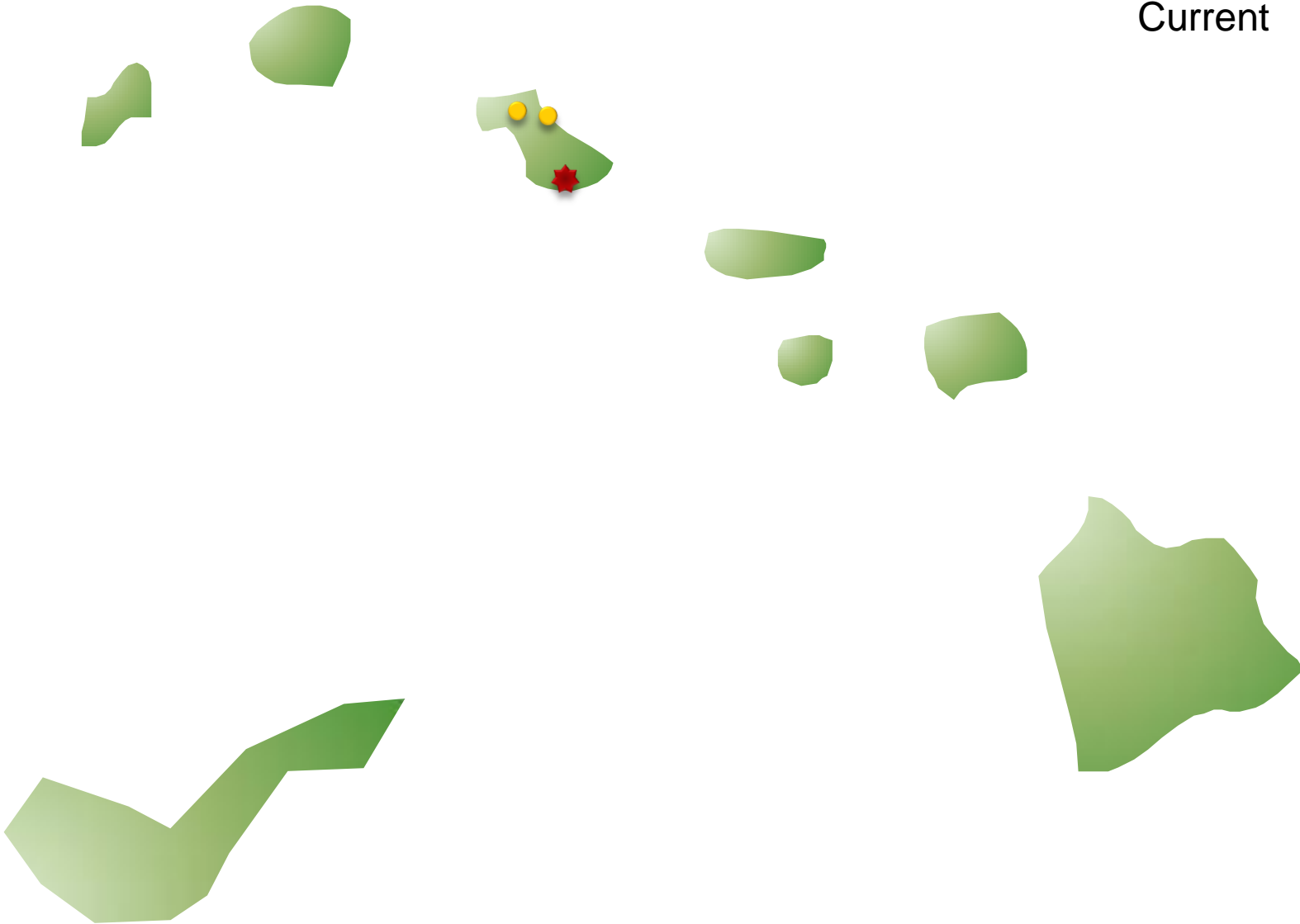
# PRMC

Current

Grand Rounds

 Regional Medical Command

 MTF



# PRMC

Future

Grand Rounds

**Audiology**

**Occupational  
Therapy**

**Psychology**

**Physical Therapy**

**Speech**

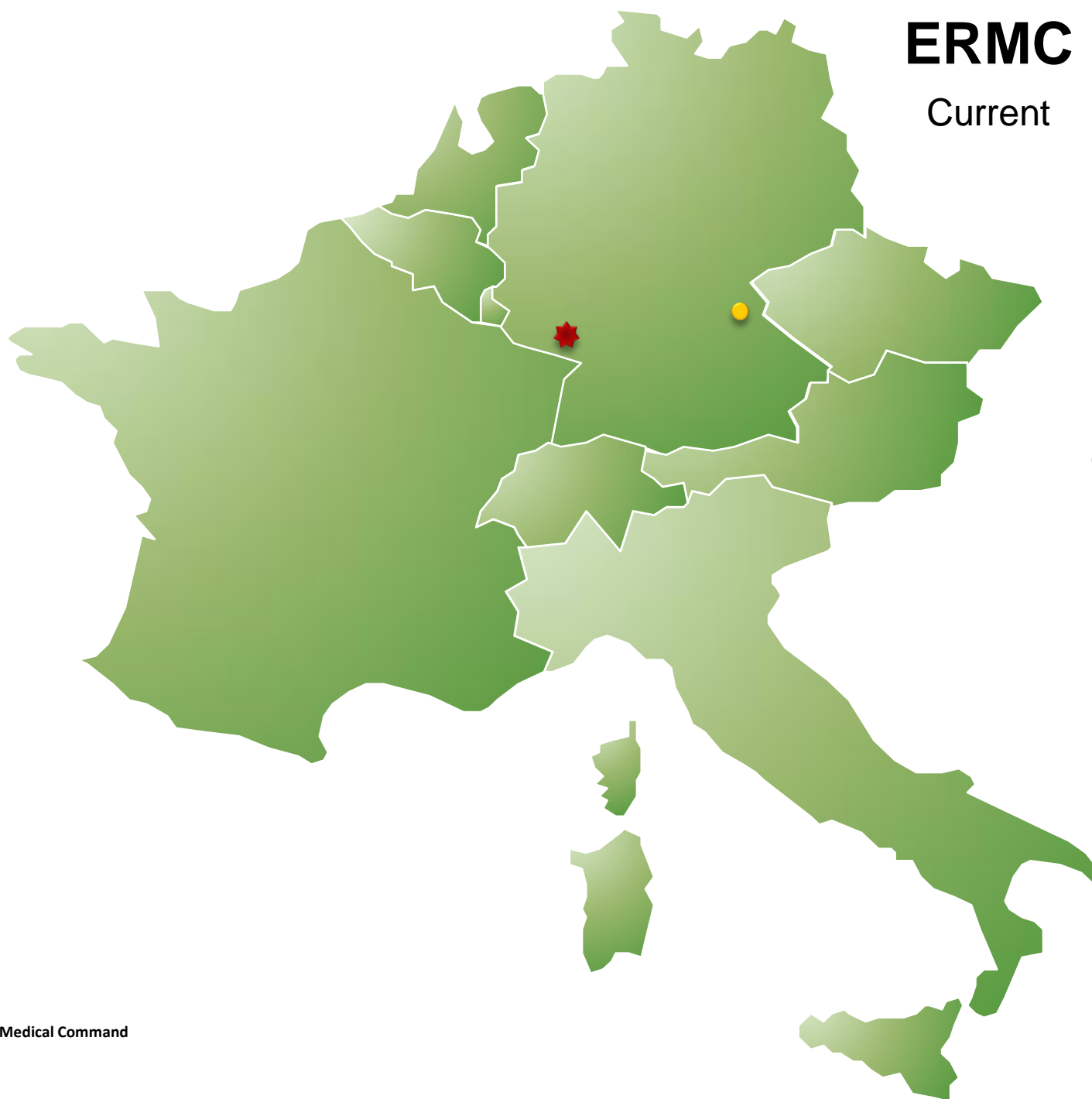
**TBI / Concussion**

 Regional Medical Command

 MTF

# ERMC

Current



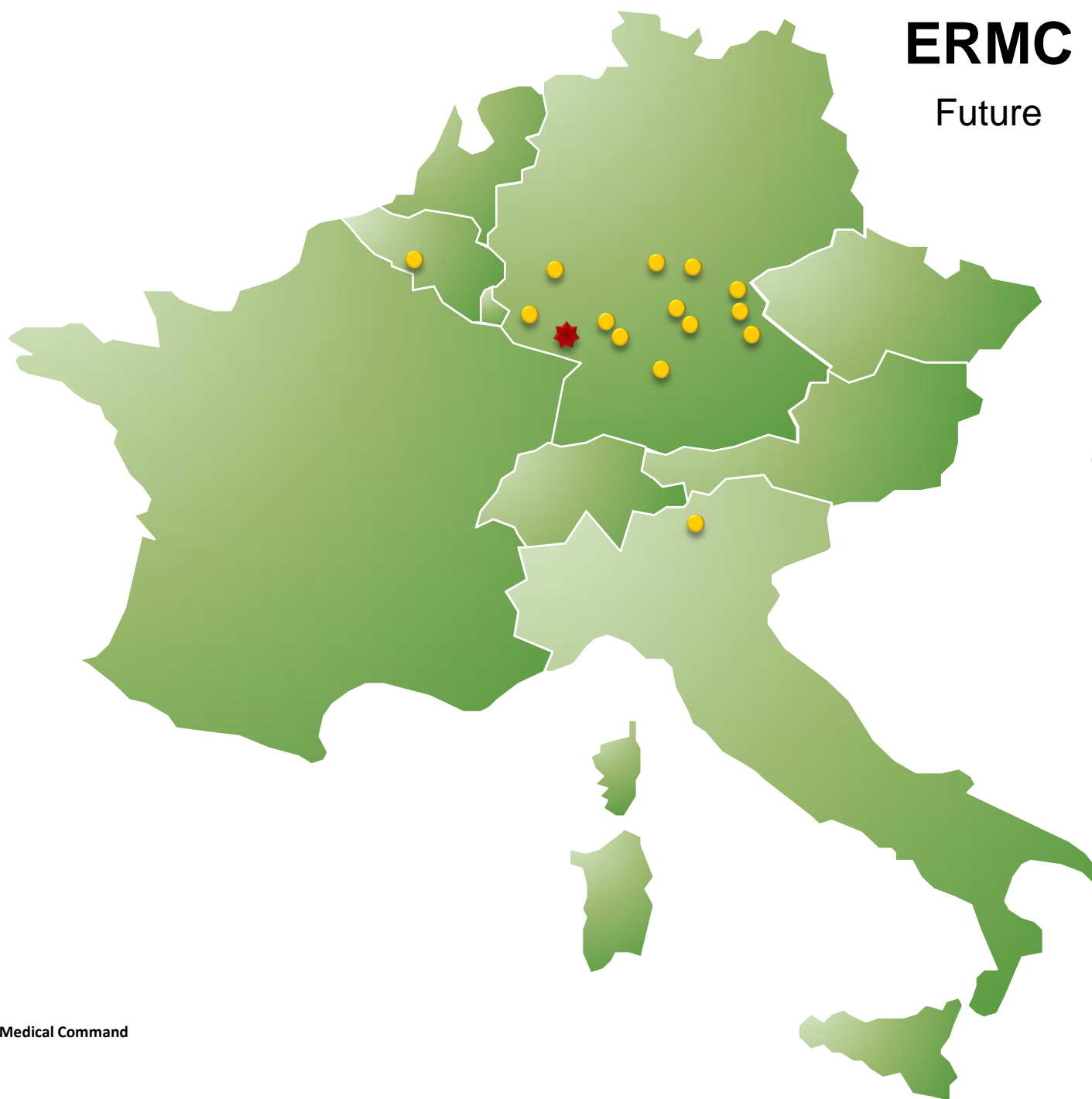
Grand Rounds

 Regional Medical Command

 MTF

# ERMC

Future



Grand Rounds

Neurology

Neuropsychology

Psychiatry

Psychology

 Regional Medical Command

 MTF





# Phase I Services - Current

NARMC	SERMC	GPRMC	WRMC	PRMC	ERMC
Grand Rounds	Grand Rounds	Grand Rounds	Grand Rounds	Grand Rounds	Grand Rounds
Headache Clinic	Psychiatry		Internal medicine		
Neurosurgery					
Psychiatry					
Psychology					



# Phase II Services - Future

NARMC	SERMC	GPRMC	WRMC	PRMC	ERMC
Grand Rounds	Grand Rounds	Grand Rounds	Grand Rounds	Grand Rounds	Grand Rounds
Headache Clinic	Psychiatry	<b>Psychology</b>	Primary Care	<b>Audiology</b>	<b>Neurology</b>
Neurosurgery	In-services / Speaker Series	<b>Neuropsychology</b>	<b>Behavioral Health</b>	<b>Occupational Therapy</b>	<b>Neuropsychology</b>
Psychiatry	Neurology	<b>Physical Medicine</b>	<b>Behavioral Neurology</b>	<b>Psychology</b>	<b>Psychiatry</b>
Psychology	Neuropsychology	<b>Sleep Disorders</b>	<b>Clinical Psychology</b>	<b>Physical Therapy</b>	<b>Psychology</b>
<b>Neuropsychology</b>	Psychology (Psychotherapy)	<b>Speech &amp; Language</b>	<b>Neurology</b>	<b>Speech</b>	
<b>Speech &amp; Language</b>	Psychology Residency Training		<b>Neuropsychology</b>	<b>TBI / Concussion</b>	
	Occupational Therapy		<b>Neuropsychometry</b>		
	Physical Therapy		<b>Occupational Therapy</b>		
	Social Work				
	Speech TBI (Neurology)				



## US Army Wide Tele-TBI Projects 'RMCs Tele-TBI Infrastructure'

- Accomplishments
  - Network established
    - Hired personnel + Installed VTC equipment
  - Conducted site visits
  - Provided training and education
  - Credentialed and privileged providers
  - Conducted Grand rounds
  - Begun conducting telehealth encounters



## US Army Wide Tele-RMC TeleHealth 'Ongoing Efforts'

- Funding:
  - FY 09 Phase I = \$1.8 M + Phase II = \$6.7 M  
Total = \$8.5 Million
- Development of outcome metrics
- Development of CPGs/standards
- Seek and integrate clinical proven telemed modalities into our network



# US Army Wide Tele-TBI Projects



## mCare Project



# mCare Project Overview

care team  
enters website  
and schedules  
a message

1

The screenshot shows the mCare website interface. At the top, there's a header with the mCare logo and 'ARMY STRONG'. Below it, a 'Message' section contains a 'Title' field with 'CBWTU-VA: Sleep Health Tip 1', a 'Header' field with 'Sleep Health Tip', and a 'Message' field with the text 'TIP: Going to bed and waking up at the same time each day helps create good sleeping habits.' To the right, a 'Preview' box shows the message as it will appear on a phone. Below the message fields is an 'Assign Device Users' section with a list of names (Annan, David; Boyd, Leonard; Fields, Shawn; Goldstein, Lois; Korea, Jerry; Patel, Rupa; Thomas, Calicia) and buttons for 'Add >', 'Add All >>', '< Remove', and '<< Remove All'. On the right, a list of users is shown: Gilley, Cindy; Smith, John; White, Matt.

message is  
sent to the  
soldier's phone

2

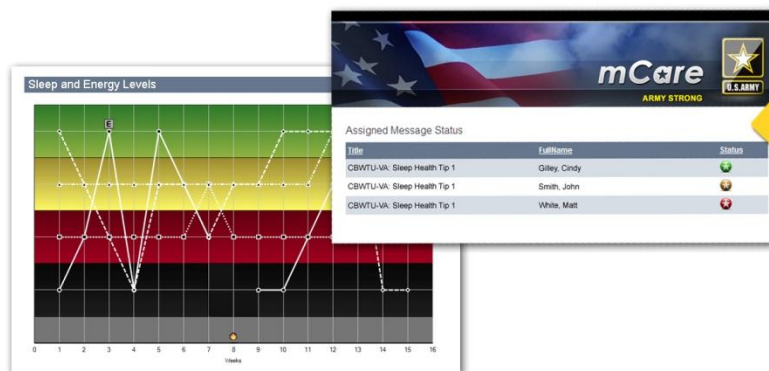


service member  
responds to the  
message

3

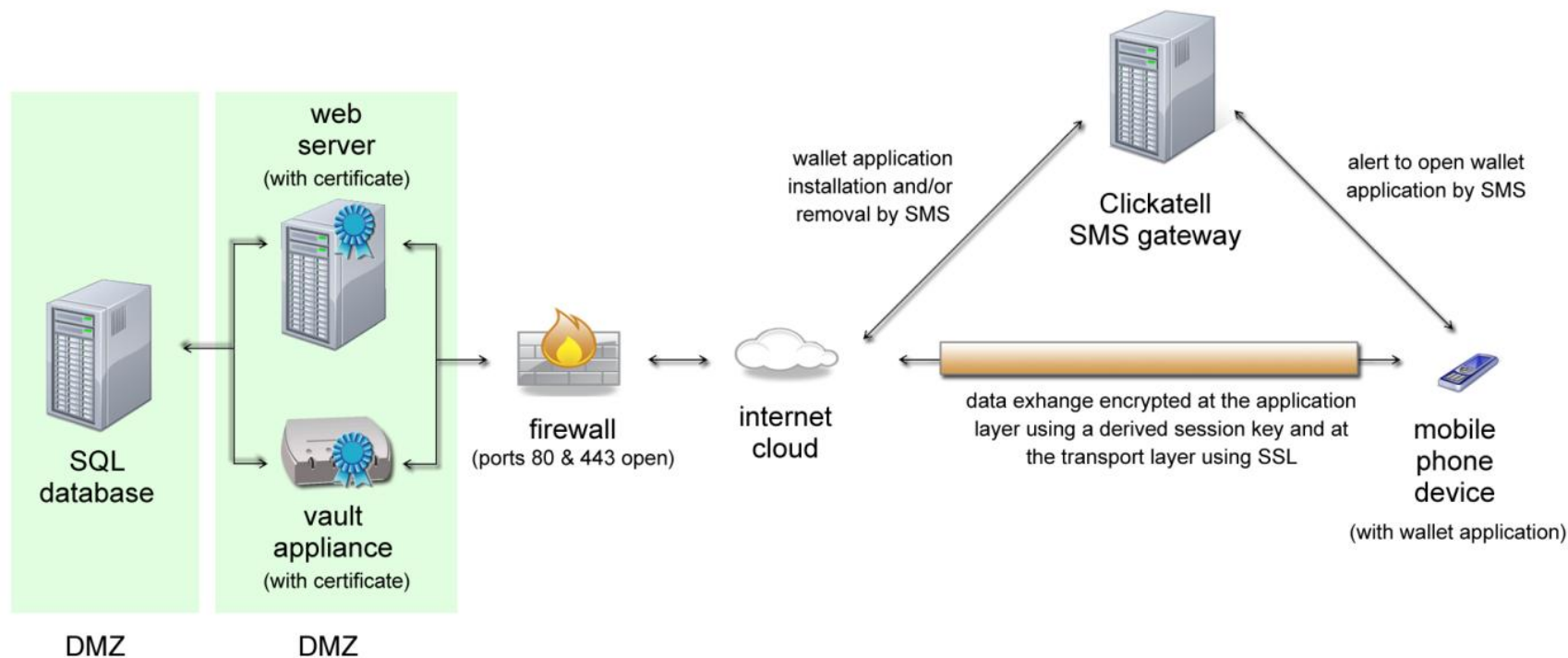
Care team views  
responses and  
reports online

4





# mCare Project Infrastructure





# mCare Project

## **Purpose:**

- Synchronization over distance of:
  - TBI patients
  - Clinic team members
- Uses patients' EXISTING cell phones
- Secure, message communication
- Simple patient responses

## **Products:**

- Cell Phone messaging technology platform for exchange of data between patients and providers, as well as family members.

## **Payoff:**

- Meet required Patient/Case Manager/ Platoon Sergeant contact rates
- Evaluate Service Member goal achievement (Comprehensive Transition Plan)
- Triage patient load
- Early assessment of medical issues (Medical Board)
- Final phase to include up to 10,000 service members





# Community Based Warrior in Transition Units (CBWTUs)




- mCare Project Liaisons (RNs) are staffed at each study site




# Specific Aims

Outcomes	Objective	Measurement	Expected Benefit
Administrative	Increasing contract rates	Contact rates assessment btw SM, CM and PS	Improvement contact rates
	Satisfaction with CM Care	Management Quality Assessment	Increased communication = increased satisfaction
	Appointment attendance rates	Rates of verified appointment attendance	Decreased no-show rates
Clinical *	Well-being/ Neurobehavioral	General Well-Being Schedule Neurobehavioral symptom Inventory	Evaluation of current symptoms
	Goal awareness	Comprehensive Transition Plan assessment	Accurate goal awareness
Technological	System performance	System analysis	Prioritization of features required
	System utilization – Service Member	System analysis	System is functional and reliable
	System utilization – Case Manager/Platoon Sergeant	System analysis	System is functional and reliable
System-based	User Satisfaction – Service Member	Focus group evaluation QUIS technology assessment	Acceptability of system
	User Satisfaction – Case Manager/Platoon Sergeant	Focus group evaluation QUIS technology assessment	Acceptability of system





**mCare**  
ARMY STRONG



[Logout](#)

### Messaging

Web-based User Management

Cell Phone Device User Management

Messaging

[Create New Message](#) | [Current Message Listing](#) | [Assign Message to User](#)

Message

Title

Reminder

Header

Appointment Reminder

Message

You have a follow up appointment at 10:00.

(Maximum characters: 127)

You have  characters left.

Submit

Preview

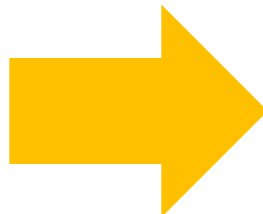
My Messages

Title: Reminder


From: mCare Staff

Date: 2/28/2009 8:30:47 PM


Message: You have a follow up appointment at 10:00.










**mCare**  
ARMY STRONG


**U.S. ARMY**

HomeWeb-based User ManagementWelcome, **Test User**Log out

**SOLDIER DASHBOARD**

APPOINTMENTS

GOALS

EXTRAS/ FUN STUFF



**Questionnaires**



**Wellbeing/CTP/Weight**



General Wellbeing

Comprehensive Transition Goal Plan

Monthly Weight











**Mood**



Life Satisfaction

Good Spirits

Future Outlook











**Relationships**



Getting Along with Family/ Spouse

Getting Along at Work

Impact on Work








**Physical Pain**



Extent of Pain



Severity of Pain



Change in Pain Levels

Impact of Daily Activities













**Anger Management**



Temper Control

Anger Interfering at Work

Anger Interfering at Home









**Energy & Sleep**



Energy Level



Energy Daily Activities



Sleeping

Hours of Sleep









**Questionnaires**

Appointments

Scheduled Messages


Goals


Notes


Message Activity


Phone Load Meter


**Legend**


 View Chart

 Marginal status requiring monitoring

 Poor/Unacceptable status requiring follow-up

 Good/Acceptable

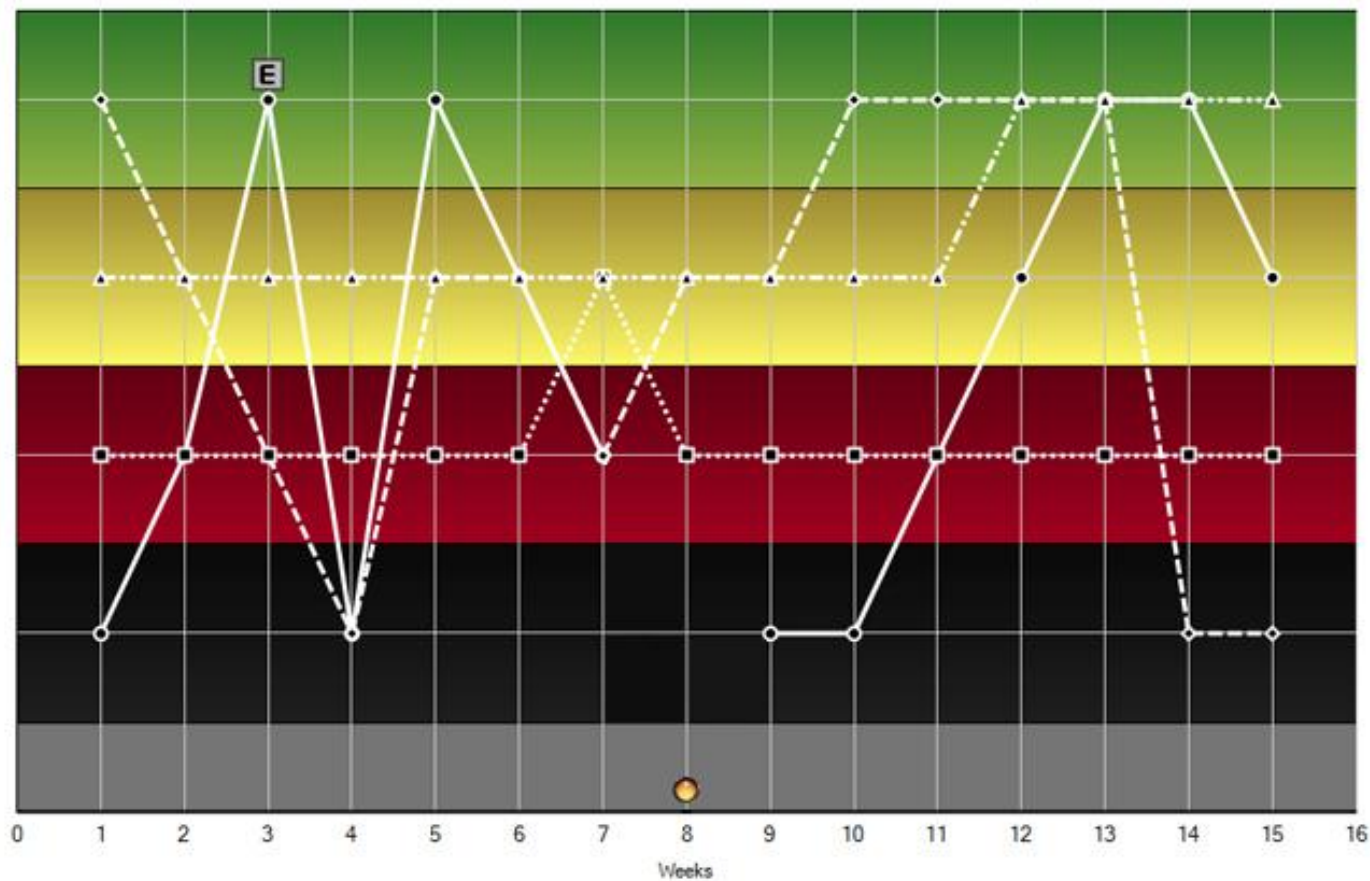
 Critical status requiring immediate action

 Indicates a change





## Sleep and Energy Levels





# US Army Wide Tele-TBI Projects 'Transcranial Doppler'

## AMEDD Transcranial Doppler (TCD) Program

Alexander Vo, PhD  
IPA/COR  
TATRC/MRMC



# AMEDD Transcranial Doppler Program



## Needs Addressed

Over the past 5 years, approximately 30% of severe wartime TBI patients experienced cerebral ischemia as a result of the secondary compromise from blast-induced cerebral vasospasm.

## Program Description

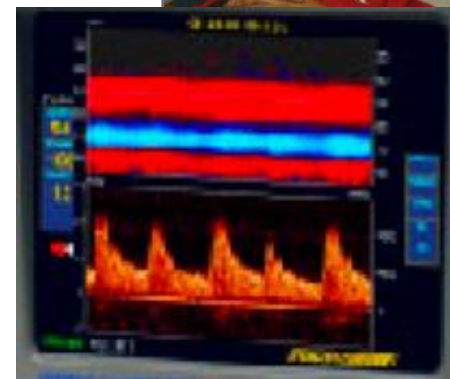
Transcranial Doppler (TCD) is a non-invasive technique using brain ultrasound to assess and monitor cerebral vascular activities in order to prevent patients from suffering further ischemic injuries to the brain.

Utilizing a Central Laboratory, the service provides:

- TCD testing, monitoring, and interpretation
- Onsite technical support and 24x7x365 helpdesk
- Training and certification

## Benefits

- Provides accurate blood flow velocity information for disease severity
- Can be used to follow disease progression, therapeutic endovascular or surgical revascularization, and recovery periods
- Low-cost and non-invasive





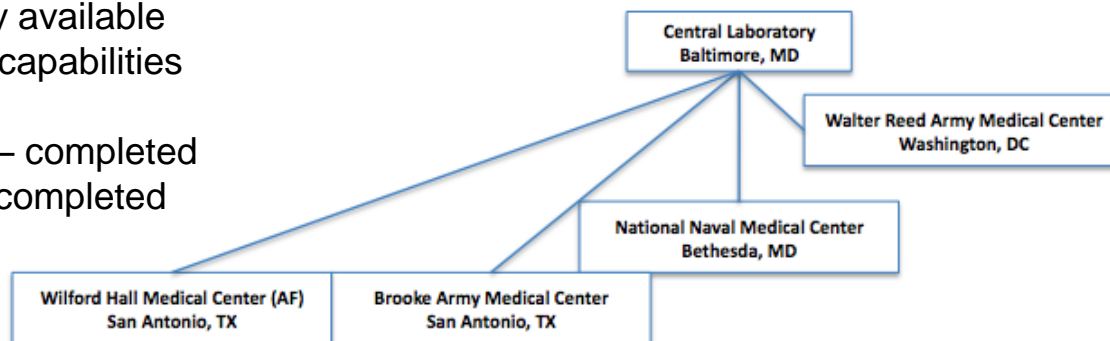


# AMEDD Transcranial Doppler Program



## Capabilities Extended

- Service provided where not previously available
- Tri-service approach using telehealth capabilities
- Implementation:
  - Phase 1: WRAMC and NNMC – completed
  - Phase 2: BAMC/Wilford Hall – completed

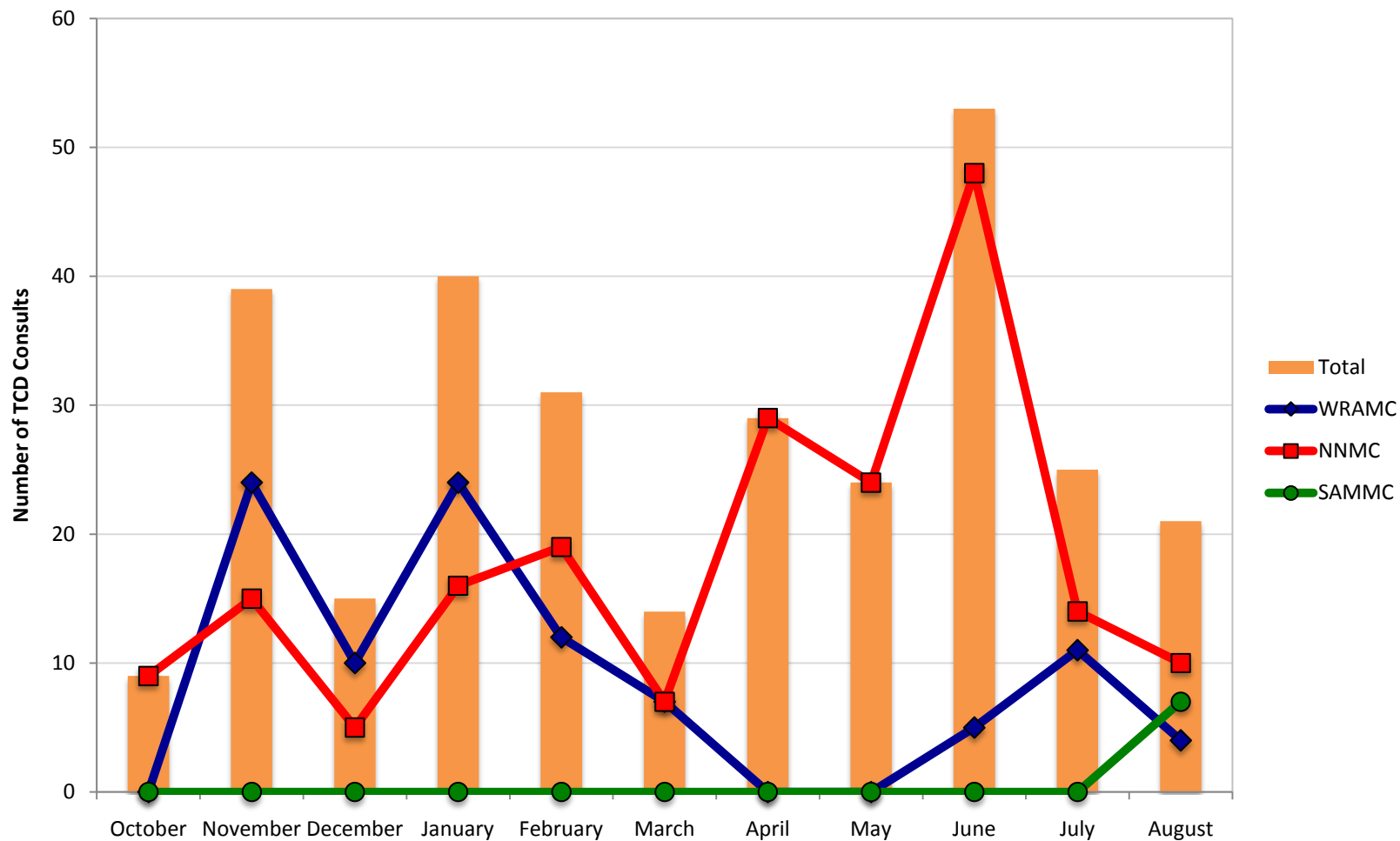


## Impact and Utilization

300 TCD studies have been conducted and preliminary quality review data have indicated that the service have contributed to the pharmacological management of 72% of the patients studied, and have indicated and led to further diagnostic procedures in 18% of the patients, without which they would not have gotten further diagnostic testing. This clearly demonstrates the program's utility and impact on the management of neurotrauma.



## TCD Utilization





The views, opinions and findings contained in this research are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Army or Department of Defense and should not be construed as an official DoD/Army policy unless so designated by other documentation. No official endorsement should be made.



# Questions?